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(74) Agents: **SCHWANDER, Kuno, Josef** et al.; DSM Nutritional Products Ltd., Wurmisweg 576, CH-4303 Kaiseraugst (CH).

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(54) Title: MICROBIAL PRODUCTION OF L-ASCORBIC ACID

(57) Abstract: The present invention discloses an isolated polynucleotide molecule derived from a polynucleotide encoding a polypeptide having L-sorbosone dehydrogenase activity comprising a partial nucleotide sequence of at least 20 consecutive nucleotides of SEQ ID NO:1. The present invention further relates to a process for the production of L-ascorbic acid in high yield, in particular a process using resting cells of a microorganism able to convert given carbon sources into vitamin C. The thus obtained vitamin C may be further processed by purification and/or separation steps.

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